

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 02359 302209Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05
CIAE-00 PRS-01 CU-02 EB-04 EUR-08 /048 W
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P R 302148Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5396
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2359

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, HA
SUBJECT: NBC-TV TEAM FILMS HAITI

1. NBC-TV NEWS TEAM HEADED BY PRODUCER GORDON THOMAS AND REPORTER CARL STOKES HAVE JUST COMPLETED 10-DAY ASSIGNMENT FOR SERIES OF SPOT REPORTS ON NBC EVENING NEWS AND TODAY SHOW. AT OUTSET OF VISIT THEY WERE BRIEFED BY AMBASSADOR AND DCM AND WERE GUESTS AT WORKING LUNCH FOR VOLAG REPS AND CROSS SECTION OF HAITIANS. THEY HAVE COVERED DROUGHT AREA (ANSE ROUGE, ESCORTED BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER), RURAL DEVELOPMENT (BAPTIST MISSION AT FERMATHE), CULTURAL AFFAIRS (HOLY TRINITY ORCHESTRA, HAITIAN PAINTERS), SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOURCES (MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO BAYARD), AND LIGHT INDUSTRIES IN PORT AU PRINCE. TEAM HAD INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER AND ACCOMPANIED HIM ON FIELD TRIP TO ARTIBONITE VALLEY JUNE 24.

2. NBC TEAM THROUGHOUT HAS SOUGHT BALANCED, CONSTRUCTIVE PRESENTATION, BUT FOUND IT DIFFICULT WITHIN TIGHT TIME FRAME, AND UNDER NERVOUS TOURIST BUREAU CHAPERONAGE, TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVES. MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT WAS THAT HAITIAN
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AUTHORITIES WERE UNWILLING TO LET THEM VISIT NORTHWEST UNDER HACHO AEGIS AND INSTEAD AT LAST MINUTE ARRANGED HELICOPTER VISIT WITH AGRICULTURAL MINISTER ESCORTING WHICH, FOR LACK OF ADEQUATE LOGISTIC SUPPORT AT ANSE ROUGE, FAILED TO GET THEM TO FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN ADVANCE BY HACHO.

3. ANOTHER INCIDENT (NOT PHOTOGRAPHED) MARRING VISIT WAS

THAT ONE OF CARS IN PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE -- PROBABLY
PRESIDENT'S OWN RANGE ROVER BEING DRIVEN BY HIM -- STRUCK
AND SERIOUSLY INJURED A TEENAGE BOY, WHO WAS LEFT IN ROAD AS
CAVALCADE CONTINUED PAST AT HIGH RATE OF SPEED. BOTH THOMAS
AND VISITING LONDON SUNDAY TIMES POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
BRIAN MOYNIHAN WERE APPALLED BY INCIDENT. MOYNIHAN LATER
TOLD TOURIST BUREAU DIRECTOR SAUREL THAT GOVERNMENT WAS
"BARBARIC" AND THAT HE WAS RETURNING IMMEDIATELY TO LONDON.

MOYNIHAN DEPARTED FOLLOWING DAY. IN ANY EVENT,
MOYNIHAN HAD NOT BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT
HE HAD SEEN, ACCORDING TO NBC TEAM, AND APPARENTLY
DECIDED TO USE INCIDENT AS DRAMATIC WAY TO CONCLUDE HIS
REPORT. IT WILL PRESUMABLY APPEAR IN AN EARLY EDITION
OF LONDON SUNDAY TIMES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
LONDON CABLING SUMMARY OF MOYNIHAN ARTICLE WHEN IT APPEARS.

5. FOR USIA: EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE AGENCY
ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING 1/2 INCH VTR COPY OF NBC PROGRAM
WHEN AIRED.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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